

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA:RHMILLER

S/S: RWOODS

PM:GCHURCHILL

S - RWAHERNE

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O R 202350Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 124389 TOSEC 130080

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MARR, RP

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM - MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE PHILIPPINES (S/S NO. 7610434)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

1. THE PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ASKS YOU TO APPROVE A MESSAGE FROM YOU TO MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH HE PROPOSES TO READ AT 18TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF MDB ON MAY 27. PURPOSE IS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE TO MDB AND ROLE WHICH WE EXPECT IT TO PLAY IN FUTURE, WHICH IS SPELLED OUT IN DRAFT BASE AGREEMENT WHICH YOU HANDED TO ROMULO ON APRIL 12. I RECOMMEND YOU APPROVE TEXT QUOTED PARA 3 BELOW.

2. BACKGROUND. MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD IS MAJOR JOINT U.S.-PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION DEALING WITH PROBLEMS INVOLVING MILITARY BASES AND U.S. FORCES IN PHILIPPINES. NEW DRAFT
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BASE AGREEMENT WHICH WE ARE OFFERING GOP WOULD GREATLY

STRENGTHEN ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF MDB. IN VIEW OF RESUMPTION OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON JUNE 15 AND THE KEY OPERATIONAL ROLE WE SEEK FOR MDB, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE AT MAY 27 MEETING TO MDB'S PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REGISTER OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE IMPORTANT ROLE IT WILL PLAY IN THE FUTURE.

3. SUGGESTED MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: I WISH TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 18TH ANNIVERSARY. AS THE UNITED STATES MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1951, I REGRET THAT I CANNOT PERSONALLY BE WITH YOU TO CONVEY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MY APPRECIATION AND MY ADMIRATION FOR THEIR ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY IN FURTHERING THE SECURITY OBJECTIVES WHICH OUR TWO NATIONS SHARE. AS THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES PROCEED TOWARD THE FUTURE WITH THE DIGNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGN AND EQUAL ALLIES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN THE OPEN COMMUNICATION REQUIRED TO INSURE THAT OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES OF WORLD PEACE, REGIONAL STABILITY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE ARE SECURED. THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD HAS PROVEN THAT IT CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THIS CONTINUING ENDEAVOR. I WISH THE BOARD CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS TO COME. END QUOTE.

4. RECOMMENDATION. I AGREE WITH SULLIVAN AS TO THE UTILITY OF A MESSAGE FROM YOU AND RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPROVE ABOVE MESSAGE FOR SULLIVAN TO READ AT THE MAY 27 MEETING.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED: EA/PHL:BAFLECK; CLEARED: EA:PCHABIB; PM: GCHURCHILL.

ROBINSON

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